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summer it occurred to me to verify his conclusions.

In the Anthropological Building was a large collection of "totem poles," carved implements, and drawn figures from Alaska, also from California, Mexico, Central America, and Peru, as well as from other parts of the Americas. In many places Japan was largely represented.

There is a most striking difference between the arts of the western coast and the interior of America. They have something of the grotesqueness of Japan, but not much other likeness. They are akin to those of ancient Mexico, and would indicate that the arts and the people of the western coast were of like origin; that the "totems" and other figures of Alaska and Vancouver are survivals of the arts of Central America and ancient Mexico.

P. J. FARNSWORTH.

Clinton, Iowa, Nov. 12, 1893.

#### ON THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF THE DIPTERA.

As a student of diptera, I have been interested in the recent letters by Professors Packard, Smith and Riley in *Science*, on the systematic position of this order of insects, and wish to express my entire concurrence in the views presented by these gentlemen. That the diptera, or some of them, are the most specialized of insects—that they depart most from the primitive type of insects—seems to be almost without argument; but that they therefore hold the highest position among insects by no means follows. Even the advocates of the supreme rank of the order have never ventured to carry their conclusions to the logical ultimatum, and give to the sheep-tick, or, better yet, the wingless, eyeless bat-tick, the highest rank. That the bat-tick is the most specialized among diptera admits of no question; that it is one of the most degraded of flies is equally certain. The whale and the bat are more highly specialized animals than is the dog; but, nevertheless, they have a very inferior rank.

I have collected flies for years, and have necessarily observed their habits somewhat closely, but I have never

seen anything in them that might be called intelligence. Man's claims to preëminence in the animal kingdom rest almost wholly upon his intelligence: for the same reason, preëminence among insects must be conceded to the hymenoptera.

S. W. WILLISTON.

#### BOOK-REVIEWS.

*Lecons de Chimie, a l'usage des Eleves de Mathematiques speciales.* Par HENRI GAUTIER, ET GEORGES CHARPY. Paris, Gauthier-Villars et fils, Quai des Grands-Augustins 55 471p., Ill., 1892, 9Fr.

WE take pleasure in announcing to students of chemistry in this country the above able work of MM. Gautier and Charpy, which while designed, according to its title, particularly for students of mathematics is of highest interest to all chemists. The title is misleading to American readers as the book is in no sense a volume of difficult and complex mathematical theories as one might suppose but an extraordinarily clear exposition of the ground work or base of chemical science, mathematical in its exact and succinct statements. It is not wished to imply that chemists should avoid mathematical because they are such even though they may deal with chemical theory, but it is nevertheless a fact that the mathematical training in many of our colleges (we speak of special courses in chemistry) has been pushed to the wall. There is a reason for this, a doubtful one however, in the shortness of the collegiate course which necessarily prevents more than an introductory knowledge of chemistry even when this subject is taken alone. The main difficulty rests in the confusion of college and university and in the effort to complete one's education in the four years following the "high school" graduation.

The authors aim to present the subject to students, not as a mass of facts and recipes, but as a science which while it may be as yet more or less imperfect is already far advanced in definite form. This is particularly the purpose of the first part of the book, which deals

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with generalities and seeks to separate facts from principles acquired by hypothetical speculations as well as to define precisely the meaning of terms employed. A methodical and rapid presentment is made of the laws of combination, of chemical equivalence, the atomic theory, of crystallographic laws, and of thermo-chemistry. It is shown that the atomic theory, a beautiful structure in itself, might still be done away with without in any degree undermining the laws of chemical equivalents. Great pains have been taken with the second part of the book, which deals with the metalloids as is evidenced in the exactness of the facts recorded. Original memoirs have in each case been consulted and when there has been doubt or contradiction the authors have verified their decision by actual experiment. So also with those portions treating of industrial chemical processes, modern and practical usage have alone been given passing over former processes in a few words as of historic interest only. This is a relief from the custom of many authors who through lamentable ignorance deceive the student with descriptions of processes as impossible as they are false. In short the features of the work are, an eminently successful departure from accepted notions of chemical text-books, a suppression of old and hoary errors which have descended through these same text-books from our ancestors to the present day, new methods of treatment and new illustrations. Some of the French scientific periodicals have predicted for the "Lecons de Chimie" "a place among the classics which will be as lasting as it is well merited" and such praise we feel confident will be accorded by all who peruse the work.

CHARLES PLATT.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

ACCORDING to the State Board of Health of Michigan, the statistics of sickness have demonstrated the law that generally influenza (la grippe) is quantitatively related to the atmospheric ozone—the more ozone the more influenza; and the law that remittent fever is inversely related—the more ozone the less remittent fever. The unusual amount of ozone, the increase of influenza and the falling off of remittent fever shown in the State Board of Health Bulletin for the week ending November 18 illustrate these general laws.

—Bulletin No. 48 of the National Museum contains the collected writings upon Myriapods by the late Chas. H. Bollman. The volume is edited by Dr. Underwood, who also contributes an excellent list of the literature of the N. A. species. The writings of Mr. Bollman are given in their order as published in Entomologica Americana, Proc. of United States National Museum, and other publications, and include also many articles which were ready for the printer at the time of Mr. Bollman's death. These latter will be especially valuable to the student of N. A. Myriapods, as they include articles upon the "Classification of the Myriapoda" and a catalogue of the N. A. species. Mr. Bollman described sixty-five species new to N. A., nearly all of which will stand, and when we consider that he was not yet twenty-one years of age at the time of his death we can but regret that he was not spared for further work. The volume just published by the Museum is by far the best work on N. A. Myriapods that has appeared since Wood's paper in 1865.

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For exchange.—Skins of *Aegialites nivosa*, *Ereunetes occidentalis*, *Aunnodramus Ardingi*, *A. rostratus*, *Chamara rasciata henshawi*, etc., for native or foreign skins with full data. Send lists. A. W. Anthony, 2042 Albatross st., San Diego, California.

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## Wants.

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WANTED.—Tuckerman's Geneva Lichenum and Carpenter on the Microscope, Wiley's Introduction to the Study of Lichens. State price and other particulars. Richard Lees, Brampton, Ont.

WANTED.—Icones Muscorum by W. D. Sullivan, with or without Supplement, but both preferred. Address, stating price and condition of books, Dr. G. N. Best, Rosemont, N. J.

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